

one instance. *Pherusa*, Bate, is therefore inadmissible, and I propose to substitute the name *Apherusa* (*a* = not) for "*Pherusa*, Bate," on p. 421, 'Annals' for May 1891.

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X.—On the Occurrence of *Discoglossus* in the Lower Miocene of Germany. By G. A. BOULENGER.

WHILST accidentally looking at some fossil frogs exhibited in the Geological Galleries of the Natural-History Museum a specimen caught my eye as so closely resembling the living *Discoglossus pictus* that I determined to submit it to a careful examination. It is described in the recently published fourth part of the 'Catalogue of the Fossil Reptilia and Amphibia' by Mr. Lydekker as *Rana Meriani*, H. v. Meyer, with the following particulars:—

"35657. Slab of lignite with the impression and some of the bones of a rather smaller skeleton, from Rott. One humerus is entire. This specimen agrees very closely in size with the skeleton figured by Meyer, *op. cit.* pl. xvi. fig. 3. The contour of the soft parts is exhibited. Purchased, 1859"*.

Now *Rana Meriani* is a true *Rana*, closely allied to *R. esculenta*, as shown by the skull and the vomerine teeth, and as correctly stated by H. v. Meyer, not to *R. temporaria*, as suggested by Mr. Lydekker. The specimen under consideration, on the other hand, is a *Discoglossoid*, as the arciferous pectoral arch, the impressions of opisthocœlous vertebræ, and the presence of transverse processes to the coccygeal style distinctly indicate. The fourth vertebra even shows, as an impression, one of the ribs which are characteristic of the anterior vertebræ of the *Discoglossidæ*.

In all those features which can be distinguished it agrees very closely with the female *Discoglossus pictus*, particularly in the following characters:—

a. The proportions, as shown by the bones and the impression of the soft parts. These are given approximately in the first column in comparison with those of a female *Discoglossus pictus* from Spain, recorded in the second column.

* I may add that the specimen is exposed ventrally.

	millim.	millim.
From snout to vent.....	67	55
Length of head.....	21	16
Width of head.....	26	19
Dorsal vertebral column.....	21	18
Coccyx.....	24	19
Femur.....	27	23
Tibia.....	32	26
Tarsus.....	27	24
Foot.....	21	18

The differences are no greater than can be found between individuals of the same species.

b. The shape of the fronto-parietals, which are narrower behind than in front, and the large size of the nasals or præ-frontals.

c. The comparatively feeble expansion of the transverse process of the sacral vertebra, the distal diameter being inferior to the length of the process.

d. The length of the coccygeal style, which a little exceeds the length of the dorsal vertebral column.

e. The short web between the toes.

On turning to H. v. Meyer's paper on the fossil frogs* I find a specimen, likewise from the lignite of Rott, near Bonn, described and figured as *Rana Troschelii* † which agrees with the above specimen except in its smaller size. This *R. Troschelii* had been compared with *Alytes* by H. v. Meyer on account of its having ribs, and for that reason alone; but I cannot find any further resemblance, for *Alytes* has the sacral processes strongly dilated, the coccyx shorter than the dorsal vertebral column, the fronto-parietals wider throughout, and a stouter, more toad-like habitus. I therefore cannot conceive what induced Cope ‡ to state that *Rana Troschelii* is "undoubtedly an *Alytes*." However, the frog has since generally passed under the name of *Alytes Troschelii*. This name I now propose to alter to *Discoglossus Troschelii*, regarding the type specimen as young and the specimen 35657 in the British Museum as an adult female.

Zittel, in his 'Manual,' p. 431, mentions *Discoglossus* from the Brown Coal, this statement being based on the identification of isolated mandibles. I do not know, however, and Dr. Zittel does not tell us, how to distinguish a mandible of

* 'Palæontographica,' vii., 1860, pp. 123-182, pls. xvi.-xxii.

† The name of this frog occurs twice over in Zittel's 'Manual,'—as a *Rana* on p. 428, as an *Alytes* on p. 431.

‡ Nat. Hist. Review, 1865, p. 106, footnote.

Discoglossus from that of other *Discoglossidæ**; but there is a character in the maxillary which is very striking and which I think I can discern in the fossil, although I am not quite sure about it—that is, this bone sends up a broad process which joins the anterior limb of the T-shaped squamosal, whilst in *Alytes* and *Bombinator* the maxillary tapers posteriorly without sending off any sort of process.

XI.—Description of a new Genus of *Iguanoid Lizards*.

By G. A. BOULENGER.

APTICHOLÆMUS.

Tympanum distinct. Body cylindrical; no dorso-nuchal crest. Dorsal scales equal, juxtaposed, keeled; lateral scales granular; ventral scales imbricate and keeled. Head-scales small; no gular fold, no gular sac. No femoral or præanal pores. Digits subcylindrical, with smooth lamellæ below. Tail very long, cylindrical. Lateral teeth tricuspoid; pterygoid teeth present. No sternal fontanelle. Abdominal ribs.

This genus is allied to *Urostrophus*, D. & B., and *Anisolepis*, Blgr., but differs from both in the absence of a gular fold and in the dorsal lepidosis.

Aptycholemus longicauda.

Head rather small, body elongate. Nostril lateral, near the end of the snout; ear-opening small, suboval, oblique. Upper head-scales rather small and smooth, smallest on the supraocular region, largest on the snout; occipital slightly enlarged, larger than the ear-opening; upper labials eight or nine, very low. Anterior gular scales small, equal, granular, keeled. Dorsal scales mostly hexagonal, strongly keeled, forming about twelve longitudinal series, passing gradually into the small granules which cover the sides. Ventral scales much larger than dorsals, strongly keeled, shortly mucronate, imbricate, in 16 to 18 longitudinal series; the keels forming straight longitudinal lines. The adpressed hind limb reaches the shoulder, or halfway between the fore limb and the ear. Tail at least three times as long as head and body, covered

* The mandibles of the *Discoglossidæ* and *Pelobatidæ* differ from those of all other European frogs in the absence of symphyseal or mento-meckelian bones.